

December 13 , 2014

Lawn

End of year lawn care should include checking the lawn's pH with a Luster Leaf [Ph tester](#). The Ph should be between 6.3 - 6.7. If the PH is not in this range, follow instructions given with your pH tester. If the Ph is to low, spreading lime will raise the Ph. If the Ph is to high, spreading iron sulphate will lower the Ph. DO NOT use Aluminum sulfate.

Areas in your lawn with poor drainage can be aerated and [Ditomite](#) can be spread after aeration, to help with the drainage. Use one 25 lb bag of Ditomite for every 500 sqft and repeat this process for several years.

Remove the remaining leaves from the lawn.

Extra compost can be lightly spread over your lawn to help improve your soil. The thawing and freezing of night frosts will work the organic matter into the soil. Do not walk on frozen grass wait until after the night frost is gone. Wait until the afternoon to do work in the yard this winter.

Northern Lawns

If last year your lawn suffered from snow-mold, now is the time to apply [Bonide Infuse](#). Make the first application now and repeat in two weeks to prevent snow mold next spring.

After your last mowing winterize your lawn mower. (Consult your owners manual for maintenance procedure) If you do not want to do this yourself, bring your mower to a service shop for this to be done. You can also have a tune up and blade sharpening done at the same time if needed. Your mower will now be ready for next spring. (most service shops will not be busy this time of year, compared to early spring)
Clean lawn spreaders and tools and spray the moving parts with wd-40.

Christmas Trees

Buy your cut Christmas tree ASAP because the cut trees on tree lots are dehydrating if they are not in water. After buying a cut tree, make a fresh cut to the bottom, set the tree up into the tree stand with water, and never let the tree run out of water. Make sure to add [prolong](#) to the water to help keep your tree greener longer.

When you plan to buy a live balled Christmas tree, to be planted in the lawn or garden, select your tree now, at your local nursery. Your best choices for a balled live Christmas tree, is the Norway spruce (Blue Spruce is also O.K to use) If your soil drains slow do not plant a Frasier Fir, they are prone to phytophthora. Have it tagged and keep the tree at the nursery. A few days before Christmas pick up your tree. Only keep your live

balled Christmas tree indoors for less than one week. Dig your planting hole now for the tree, in case the soil is frozen after Christmas. Also have Baccto sphagnum peat moss and a bag of mulch on hand. The Baccto sphagnum peat moss will be mixed with your soil when planting the tree. Make sure to cover the hole so that no one can fall or trip into it. Use fencing or a cover.

The live tree should be planted in a sunny location.

Roses

Make a soil mound up around the rose stem to a height of 6-8 inches to protect them from frost damage.

Store your seeds, sprinklers, and pond uv systems in a frost free dry place.

Store your liquid pesticides, fertilizers, and repellents in a frost free place under lock and key out of reach from children. For more information on storing, visit

Debugthemyths.com

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